



TROY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Charles T. Craft, Chief of Police 500 W. Big Beaver, Troy, Michigan 48084 (248) 524-3443

BUSINESS COMMUNITY INFORMATION NETWORK

BEWARE OF FIRE EXTINGUISHER SERVICE SCAM The following information was given to the Troy Police Department from Troy Assistant Fire Chief and now to Troy Businesses via this fax:

Several businesses have been the target of a scam involving fraudulent fire extinguisher service. A company by the name of Michigan Fire Control Services, from Comstock, Michigan, has visited businesses and charged a fee for supposed annual maintenance to the fire extinguisher(s). While codes require annual maintenance, the maintenance must be performed by a qualified technician trained in the maintenance of the extinguisher by the manufacturer. The individual(s) of this particular firm are not performing a proper inspection of, nor maintenance to, the fire extinguisher. In at least one instance, the extinguisher was "checked" and the activation pin was secured with an irremovable plastic wire tie, rendering the extinguisher inoperable. The required inspection/maintenance tag was merely a paper photo copy of another tag that was then altered by hand. This company has targeted businesses on weekends when many small businesses have limited staffing. Employees are often coerced into paying cash for this service with threats of the Fire Marshal being summoned if payment is not received. The Troy Fire Prevention Division recommends that businesses inform their employees of this scam. Employees should know which company has been hired to service the fire extinguishers, and not to accept service from Michigan Fire Control Services, or any company not contracted to perform the required annual maintenance. Fire extinguishers should have a durable tag secured around the neck of the extinguisher with the regular service company's name, address, and year printed on it. The month the extinguisher was serviced should be punched with a small hole-punch. If this particular company, Michigan Fire Control Services, or another suspect company shows up to offer such service, or indicates that they have been sent by the fire department, employees should immediately call the police department. The Troy Fire Department does not send anyone to service extinguishers. If a business has already been victimized by Michigan Fire Control Services, please call the Troy Fire Prevention Division at 248-524-3419, or your local fire department.

Information contained in this message came from a credible source. These incidents are suspicious in nature, however they may or may not constitute criminal activity. This report informs you about potential criminal activities, so that you may implement the appropriate crime prevention measures. We are also seeking any additional information your employees may have regarding these and other suspicious activities or crimes.

Report all suspected "in progress" criminal or suspicious situations to the Troy Police Department by dialing "9-1-1." Report all other information at #(248) 524-3477.